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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/865,841	05/30/97	NIELSEN	J 2860-059-P22

020277  
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LMC1/0317

EXAMINER

MILLS, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2771

DATE MAILED: 03/17/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**08/865,841**

Applicant(s)  
**Nielsen**

Examiner  
**John Mills**

Group Art Unit  
**2771**



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 7, 1999

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment of January 7, 1999 has been entered. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.
2. The applicant's arguments have been considered but are not found persuasive. The claims which have not been amended since the previous action are still seen to be anticipated by the cited prior art. The applicant's remarks argue hindsight interpretation of the claims rather than the apparent broad language of the claims themselves. The examiner suggests that the applicant propose an amendment which would clearly set forth the invention and its allowability over the prior art of record.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brunner et al. U.S. Patent 5,550,971. The applicant's search system is essentially taught by the prior art teaching of a database management system with adaptive user interface as follows.

In claim 1, the applicant's limitations of a bus, information accessible through said bus, a communications interface, and a processor configured to receive search queries and provide a list of terms used in search queries, are taught by the reference as the user interface with connectors

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to a keyboard and mouse (See elements 16, 18, and 20 of figure ) and the processor of the local/networked computer system (See element 14 of figure 1). The storage and processing of query requests is shown by internal query language processor (element 22) together with the semantic model (element 24). These structural elements are described in more detail on col. 4 line 19 etseq. of the prior art teaching.

In claim 2, the adding of a term or query as a meta-tag is shown by the meta model layer of figure 2 and discussed on col. 5 line 21 et seq.

In claim 3, the limitation of an inverted index is inherent in the teaching of the reference as indexing is well known in the data processing art.

In claim 4, the limitation of a network with users is also taught by the prior art as the networked computer system (element 14 in figure 1) used for database retrieval for various clients as discussed on Col. 4 line 6 et seq.

In claim 5, the adding of a term or query as a meta-tag is shown by the meta model layer of figure 2 and discussed on col. 5 line 21 et seq.

In claim 6, the limitation of an inverted index is inherent in the teaching of the reference as indexing is well known in the data processing art.

In claim 7, the method of enhancing information retrieval has also been essentially shown by the reference as query processing with the meta model which is an abstract description of the

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various object types and relationships. The frequency of occurrence of an object type is shown by the storage of "instances" of DOT types defined in the model layer (See Figure 3 element 108).

In claims 7-10, the additional limitations of the method of presenting terms to the user with portions of the document would be inherent in the user interface for conveying database retrieved information in various formats to the user (See Col. 5 line 21 et seq.)

In claim 11, the adding of a term or query as a meta-tag is shown by the meta model layer of figure 2 and discussed on col. 5 line 21 et seq.

In claim 12, the limitation of an inverted index is inherent in the teaching of the reference as indexing is well known in the data processing art.

Claims 13-22 are rejected in the analysis of claims 7-12 above and are rejected on that basis.

Claims 23--26 set forth the invention as a computer program product and claim essentially the same features that are set forth in the apparatus and method claims analyzed above. The features of the computer program product to carry out the invention are inherent in the prior art teaching as detailed in the analysis above.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

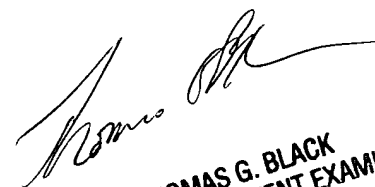
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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John G. Mills whose telephone number is (703) 308-9822. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (703)-305-9707. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703-305-9731).

John G. Mills

  
THOMAS G. BLACK  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 2700